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RELEASED IN PART
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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CEA-01	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FBO-01	FRB-03	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01
	OPIC-08	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03
	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01
	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00	/107W	
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P 132118Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8343

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 01600

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: CTV REACTS TO THE ATTEMPTED COUP

1. (U) AT A FEB. 12 MEETING OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP, THE VENEZUELAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTV) RATIFIED A SECOND STATEMENT REGARDING THE FEB. 4 COUP ATTEMPT (THE FIRST WAS RELEASED ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT) AND DECIDED TO MAKE A FEW SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL CHANGES. THE NEW COMMUNIQUE STATES:

- "THE INSTITUTION OF DEMOCRACY LIVED THROUGH ONE OF ITS WORST MOMENTS LAST FEB. 4";

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- "THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR THE NATION TO PULL ITSELF TOGETHER AND BEGIN A PROCESS OF REFLECTION IN ORDER TO PRESENT PROPOSALS TO ACCELERATE THE CHANGES THAT THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM REQUIRES";

- "THE CTV WILL DEEPEN ITS OWN CHANGES"; AND

- THE CTV "DEMANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT THE PROFOUND RECTIFICATIONS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY THAT WE AND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 12 FEB 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 03 AUG 2006 200503206

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OTHER LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PROMOTED".

2. (U) AFTER THE FEB. 12 MEETING, CTV PRESIDENT ANTONIO RIOS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOV MUST "MODIFY ITS ECONOMIC POLICY". THAT POLICY, HE SAID, HAS HELPED ONLY THE "GREAT ECONOMIC GROUPS" WHILE "THE REST OF THE POPULATION SEES ONLY A DETERIORATION OF ITS INCOME AND ITS QUALITY OF LIFE IN GENERAL." WHEN ASKED WHAT CHANGES HE WOULD RECOMMEND, THE CTV PRESIDENT REPEATED THE DEMANDS MADE BY ORGANIZED LABOR DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS -- DEMANDS FOR A SALARY INCREASE, REFORM OF SOCIAL SECURITY, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN BASIC SERVICES. RIOS ADDED, "WE ARE NOT SEEKING A RETURN TO (THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF) THE PAST."

3. (C) ON FEB. 12 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT THE CTV WAS SERIOUS ABOUT "DEEPENING ITS CHANGES". (THE COMMENTS OF [REDACTED] ON NATIONAL POLITICS ARE REPORTED SEPTTEL.) THE COUP ATTEMPT, HE SAID, WAS A WAKE-UP CALL FOR ALL
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VENEZUELAN ORGANIZATIONS. [REDACTED] THEN DESCRIBED
CHANGES IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOME OF THE
CONFEDERATION'S TOP OFFICIALS:

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- CESAR GIL, THE CTV'S TOP NEGOTIATOR, HAS BEEN REMOVED AS CHIEF OF THE CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT AND GIVEN A JOB WITH MUCH LESS RESPONSIBILITY, HEADING THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE. [REDACTED]

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- THE HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE ("CONTRALARIA") THAT INVESTIGATES COMPLAINTS FROM MEMBERS AGAINST UNION OFFICIALS WAS REPLACED BY A YOUNGER, MORE ENERGETIC INDIVIDUAL. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THESE CHANGES WERE INTENDED TO

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MAKE THE CTV MORE "TRANSPARENT" (I.E., MORE HONEST IN FACT AND IN APPEARANCE).

4. (C) COMMENT. THE CTV'S ATTEMPTS TO CLEAN UP ITS IMAGE (AND SOME OF ITS PRACTICES) ARE WELCOME AND LONG OVERDUE. THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE REFORM PACKAGE REMAIN MOSTLY RHETORICAL AND NON-SPECIFIC. IN SPITE OF THEIR CALL FOR "PROFOUND ECONOMIC RECTIFICATIONS", CTV LEADERS

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HAVE NOT AND DO NOT ATTACK THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE
ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM.

[REDACTED] THE
CTV'S REMARKS ON ECONOMIC POLICY ARE A REPETITION OF
PAST STATEMENTS, BUT THEY COME AT AN UNFORTUNATE TIME --
IT HAS JOINED THE BANDWAGON OF THOSE WHO CONNECT THE
COUP ATTEMPT WITH ECONOMIC POLICY.
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